

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01905 080840Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /076 W  
-----099363 080847Z /20

O R 070752Z JUL 77 ZDK  
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6035  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1905

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDEV, RH, US, UK  
SUBJ: POSSIBLE SMITH-SITHOLE ARRANGEMENT

1. LUSAKA PRESS REPORTS OF SMITH'S JULY 6 SPEECH IN  
SALISBURY QUOTE HIM AS SAYING THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO ALLOW  
SITHOLE TO RETURN TO RHODESIA. IT WAS IN SITHOLE'S FAVOR,  
SMITH SAID, THAT HE HAD PUBLICLY CONDEMNED THE PATRIOTIC  
FRONT. "I LIKE TO HEAR THAT KIND OF TALKING BECAUSE TODAY,  
AS FAR AS RHODESIA IS CONCERNED, I BELIEVE THE PATRIOTIC  
FRONT IS PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE. SMITH ALSO STATED THAT  
HIS REGIME WAS CONSTANTLY WORKING ON ALTERNATIVE SETTLEMENT  
PROPOSALS, "AND IF THE CURRENT ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE  
FAILED THERE WERE PLANS FOR AN ENTIRELY NEW RHODESIAN  
ATTEMPT TO SOLVE THE COUNTRY'S CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS."  
SMITH SAID HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY RHODESIAN BLACKS AND BY  
PEOPLE FROM OTHER EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES THAT  
MR. SITHOLE HAD HAD A CHANGE OF HEART AND SHOULD BE PER-  
MITTED TO ENTER RHODESIA TO WORK FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION.  
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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 01905 080840Z

ON THE SAME DAY NKOMO, IN A PRESS CONFERENCE IN LUSAKA,  
ADVISED SITHOLE TO STAY OUT OF RHODESIA AND "NOT TO LET  
HIMSELF BE USED BY THE REBEL REGIME." THESE STATEMENTS,  
TOGETHER WITH NKOMO'S GENERALLY HARD-LINE STANCE, WILL  
QUICKLY RAISE FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION THE POSSIBILITY OF  
SOME KIND OF ACCOMODATION BETWEEN SMITH AND SITHOLE.

2. IN ANSWER TO PUBLIC QUERIES ON THIS SUBJECT, I PROPOSE  
THAT WE REPLY AS FOLLOWS:

"THE UNITED STATES OPPOSES AND WILL NOT BE A PARTY TO  
ANY SOLUTION WHICH DID NOT PRODUCE A GOVERNMENT THAT WAS  
CHOSEN BY AN OPEN, FREE AND UNBIASED ELECTION ON THE BASIS  
OF ONE-MAN-ONE-VOTE."

OUR PRIVATE STANCE WOULD BE THE SAME.

3. GRAHAM PREFERS OMITTING WORD "OPPOSES."

4. THE WORD "UNBIASED" IS INTENDED TO COVER CONTROL OF  
THE ELECTION PROCESS BY ANY ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS--  
SMITH, SITHOLE, OR NKOMO. THE STATEMENT WOULD APPLY  
EQUALLY TO THE COURSE OF ACTION WHICH NKOMO PROPOSED  
DURING HIS PRESENT CONFERENCE: PURSUIT OF MILITARY ACTION  
TO SURRENDER, ASSUMPTION OF CONTROL BY THE NATIONALIST  
ARMED FORCES, DRAFTING OF A CONSTITUTION, AND THE HOLDING  
OF AN ELECTION UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE ARMED NATIONALISTS  
(PATRIOTIC FRONT). FINALLY, THE STATEMENT WOULD PUT  
SMITH ON NOTICE PUBLICLY, AS THE BRITISH HAVE ALREADY  
DONE, THAT NOTHING SHORT OF UNIVERSAL ADULT SUFFRAGE  
WOULD AT THIS STAGE BE SATISFACTORY. END FYI.

4. THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP IS DUE TO LEAVE LUSAKA AT 1345  
JULY 7 FOR FRANCISTOWN WHERE THE PRETORIA ATTACHE AIRCRAFT  
WILL TRANSPORT IT TO JOHANNESBURG, ARRIVING AT 1730 (1130  
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PAGE 03 LUSAKA 01905 080840Z

WASHINGTON TIME), FOR ONWARD TRAVEL TO SALISBURY. THE  
DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL OR REACTION TO THE ABOVE STATEMENT  
WOULD BE APPRECIATED, TRANSMITTED THROUGH PRETORIA.  
LOW

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POSSIBLE SMITH-SITHOLE ARRANGEMENT  
**TAGS:** PDEV, RH, US, UK, (SMITH, IAN), (SITHOLE, NDABANINGI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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